

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 32, 35, 36, 39, 42, and 43 as shown below. The claims and their status are shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene, having:

- i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or
- ii) a fragment within i),

wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes transcription and tissue-specific expression of the murine villin gene in cells of the intestine.

2. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is the sequence extending 5.5 kb upstream and 3.5 kb downstream from the transcription initiation site of the murine villin gene.

3. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is the sequence identified as Seq ID NO:1.

4. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide fragment extending from the HS I to the HS IV Dnase I-hypersensitive sites.

5. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive site to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene.

6. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 upstream from the transcription initiation site, to the translation initiation site.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence, to the translation initiation site.

9. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is the sequence extending from the translation initiation site of said murine villin gene upstream to

a sequence that is 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site of said murine villin gene, provided the ~~region corresponding to~~ intron 1 region, located between said sites, is deleted or deleted in part.

10. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is mutated by deletion of one or several nucleotides, within the nucleotide fragment of 5.5 kb corresponding to the intron 1 region extending from position 47 starting from the transcription initiation site, provided that said mutation does not affect the presence of the HS II Dnase I-hypersensitive site.

11. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises nucleotide regions having a regulatory activity affecting the level of expression of the murine villin gene.

12. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is obtained from the nucleotide sequence of the murine villin gene having a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and extending 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site and 5.5 kb downstream from said site, or a fragment thereof, said nucleotide sequence or fragment thereof having a regulatory activity on the level of expression of the murine villin gene ~~in intestine cells and/or~~ in transgenic mice.

13-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene having

i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and is the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:1;
or

ii) a fragment of i), wherein said fragment is selected from the group consisting of

(a) a nucleotide fragment extending from the translation initiation site of said murine villin gene upstream to a sequence that is 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site of said murine villin gene, provided the ~~region corresponding to~~ intron 1 region located between said sites is deleted;

(b) a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS I to the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive sites;

(c) a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive site downstream to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene;

(d) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 upstream from the transcription initiation site to the translation initiation site; and

(e) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence to the translation initiation site;

wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having cis-regulatory activity that promote the transcription of the murine villin gene.

33. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene which is the sequence extending 5.5 kb upstream and 3.5 kb downstream from the transcription initiation site of the murine villin gene.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin having

i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and is the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:1; or

ii) a fragment of i), wherein said fragment is selected from the group of:

(a) a nucleotide fragment extending from the translation initiation site of said murine villin gene upstream to a sequence that is 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site of said murine villin gene, provided the ~~region corresponding to~~ intron 1 region is located between said sites is deleted;

(b) a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS I to the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive sites;

(c) a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive site downstream to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene;

(d) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 upstream from the transcription initiation site, to the translation initiation site; and

(e) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence, to the translation initiation site;

wherein said isolated nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes the transcription of the murine villin gene and comprises nucleotide regions having a regulatory activity affecting the level of expression of the murine villin gene.

36. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene, having:

- i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and is the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:1; or
- ii) a fragment within i), wherein said isolated nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes the transcription and tissue-specific expression of the murine villin gene in intestine epithelial cells and kidney proximal tubules.

37. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 upstream from the transcription initiation site, to the translation initiation site.

38. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence, to the translation initiation site.

39. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which is the sequence extending from the translation initiation site of said murine villin gene upstream to a sequence that is 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site of said murine villin gene, ~~provide the region corresponding to~~ provided the intron 1 region, located between said sites is deleted.

40. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which is mutated by deletion of one or several nucleotides, within the nucleotide fragment of 5.5 kb corresponding to the intron 1 region extending from position 47 starting from the transcription initiation site, provided that the mutation does not affect the presence of the HS II Dnase I-hypersensitive site.

41. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 36, which comprises nucleotide regions having a regulatory activity affecting the level of expression of the murine villin gene.

42. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene having:

i) a nucleotide fragment extending from an HS I hypersensitive site downstream to an HS IV Dnase I-hypersensitive site and extending from -1 kb to 5.5 kb with respect to the transcription initiation site of SEQ ID NO:1; or

ii) a fragment within i), wherein said isolated nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes the transcription and tissue-specific expression of the murine villin gene in intestine epithelial cells and kidney proximal tubules.

43. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene having;

i) a nucleotide fragment extending from an HS IV Dnase I-hypersensitive site downstream to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene and extending 3.5 kb upstream of the transcription initiation site of SEQ ID NO:1; or

ii) a fragment within i), wherein said isolated nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes the transcription and tissue-specific expression of the murine villin gene in intestine epithelial cells and kidney proximal tubules.